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DODD'S BATTLE MEXICANS SAY WAS A DEFEAT

(Continued from Page One)

from Columbus to Las Palomas and thence southwest to Ascension.

Official reports upon the engagement at Tomachic, April 22, in which Colonel George A. Dodd's command routed 250 Villistas with heavy Mexican losses, but with only two American casualties, failed to add materially to press reports. Army officers here generally assume that the band encountered was that which has been reported lurking in the vicinity of Guerrero since the battle there several weeks ago. The mayor of Guerrero, who apparently is friendly to the Americans, reported to military authorities recently that the Villistas menaced the safety of his people, and it is assumed here that Colonel Dodd was dispatched to disperse them.

All reports reaching here today indicate that beyond a few local movements, necessary for the preservation of the American line, General Pershing's command remains inactive and concentrated in the main about Nami-quita and Colonia Dublan. The report of Colonel Dodd's recent engagements was followed by numbers of conflicting rumors here of important movements, but investigation tended to support none of them, military men apparently feeling that the future policy of the expedition depends entirely upon the outcome of the conference between Generals Funston, Scott and Obregon at the border.

Captain Willis, of the army aero corps, who was injured in the fall of an airplane in the Sierra Madres several days ago, left today for San Antonio to recuperate.

REVENGE OF GERMANS ON KING STEPHEN FOR ZEPPLIN L-19

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French say they frustrated a German attack against their position.

Aside from this fighting artillery bombardments and sapping operations have formed the chief method of warfare on the western front. The regions of Avocourt, Hill 205, and Montezelle northwest of Verdun, continue the scene of violent artillery activity. The aerial corps of both the French and the Germans have been engaged in fighting in the air or in bomb-dropping maneuvers.

No reports of important events have been received from any of the other war theaters.

The Nightly Raid

LONDON, April 27.—British official statement says:

"Zepplins were reported over the east coast of Kent between 10 and 11 o'clock Wednesday night. No reports of their penetrating far inland have been received thus far, and as it is misty over east Kent, it is probable that they turned back before midnight. It is reported that one bomb was dropped which fell into the sea."

Viscount War's Victim

LONDON, April 27, 2:45 a. m.—Lieutenant Viscount Quenington, eldest son of Earl St. Aldwyn (Michael Edward Hicks-Booth, former chancellor of the exchequer), has been killed in action.

Viscount Quenington was born in 1877, and was a member of parliament for Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury division. He was assistant private secretary to his father during the latter's tenure of the post of chancellor of the exchequer.

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ELECT TEACHERS IN ROOSEVELT DISTRICT

At a recent meeting of the board of trustees of the Roosevelt school in district 66, the following teachers were re-elected for another year: K. C. Spradlen, principal; Elizabeth Richards, west ward; Marla Carter, primary; Nora Hensley, second grade; Emma Parrot, third and fourth grades; Pink Elliot, fifth and sixth grades; Hattie Snodgrass, east ward; Wilfred Bigg, manual training and Agnes Hunt, domestic science.

TOLD CASHIER'S FORTUNE

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

BOXIE, Ark., April 26.—While two gypsy women endeavored today to persuade the cashier of a bank at Palmyra to look into the future by having them read his palm, a package of currency containing \$600 disappeared from the counter and county officers say it was taken by a seven-year-old girl confederate of the women. The child ran to the front door of the bank and handed something to a man on horseback, who escaped. The women and girl were placed in jail here pending an investigation.

Gypsies made a similar attempt last week to rob a bank at Stuttgart, but the child was detected as she seized the roll of bills containing \$200.

MOVEMENTS OF OBREGON SHROUDED IN MYSTERY

(Continued from Page One)

ravally under Colonel Erwin at Comomachic two days before, but since then there has been no encounter.

It was regarded here as not improbable that General Funston might inspect the troops in Mexico after the conference with Obregon.

Somewhere in Mexico

NUERO LAREDO, Mexico, April 26.—General Alvaro Obregon, Mexican war minister, is enroute to Chihuahua tonight, according to an apparently authentic report here. This is taken to indicate that he expects to meet General Hugh L. Scott either in Juarez or El Paso. Carranza officials here announced earlier in the day that Obregon would reach Monterrey today, on his way to Piedras Negras. But the war minister, it is stated, changed his plans and is going to Chihuahua via Torreon. His exact whereabouts tonight were unknown here.

Instructions Go Forward

WASHINGTON, April 26.—General instructions for the assistance of Major General Hugh L. Scott at his forthcoming conference with Carranza's war minister, General Obregon, were drafted by Secretary Baker today after brief conferences with President Wilson and with Secretary Lansing of the state department.

The only official statement as to the nature of the instructions was the following issued by Secretary Baker: "The instructions are to discuss a basis for the most cordial and complete co-operation between the American and Mexican forces in the attainment of their common project."

While the immediate object of the conference is, as stated, a question of military disposition to put an end to bandit operations along the border, there is no doubt its result will have a strong influence upon the diplomatic negotiations between the two governments. Suggestions of the conference would receive attention both here and in Mexico City.

It is considered certain General Obregon will carry back to Mexico City on his return a definite impression that the American troops will remain in the positions to which General Funston now is shifting them as a buffer between the disturbed area of northern Mexico and the border, until the success of the Carranza forces in pursuing the Ya-dites removes the danger of further raids on American towns. It also is virtually certain that the intentions of the American forces to protect thoroughly all the territory in the immediate vicinity of their advanced bases will be made clear.

To this extent the conference will give General Carranza advice as to the attitude the United States will take in replying to his note of April 12 suggesting the withdrawal of the forces. Officials hope, however, that its more immediate result will be to clear away the misunderstanding and suspicion with which the movements of the American troops have been regarded by the local Mexican commanders and officials, to free supply shipments for the troops from interference which they have met heretofore, and perhaps to make possible real joint operations for the capture of the bandits.

While it is not known that the orders mentioned Villa, General Scott may point out to General Obregon that the most effective way to obtain the early withdrawal of the American forces from Mexico would be to lend all possible aid in the chase for the bandit. With his elimination either by American or Mexican troops, it is believed, the Washington government would agree to an immediate retirement of the expedition across the border.

It would be made clear in this connection that United States officials have no doubt of their ability to capture the bandit were it not for the desire to avoid clashes with the Mexicans, such as occurred at Parral. The redistribution of the troops to confine their operations to a more limited field since that incident will be cited as evidence of the good faith of the statement.

The presence of the American forces on their new lines will narrow the chase materially and will accord in the Carranza government's desire to undertake it unaided, or make possible effective co-operation if joint operations are preferred.

A renewal of the hunt for the bandit by American troops now is in progress, both official reports from General Funston and border advices disclosed. The cavalrymen, despite the worn condition of their mounts, are beating the mountains where Villa adherents have been assembling during the lull in the chase after the Parral incident. No information as to the whereabouts of Villa has been received. The war department gave out this dispatch from General Funston:

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GREAT WAR LEADERS LEARN OF THE PROGRESS OF THEIR ARMS



Emperor William conferring with Gen. von Boehm-Ermolli. Right, Gen. Joffre getting report from Verdun.

These pictures, taken near the battle front, are the latest of Emperor William and General Joffre. The German war lord is seen conversing with General von Boehm-Ermolli, the great Austrian leader, on the progress of the war on the eastern front. The French commander-in-chief is receiving a report from one of his generals at Verdun.